

NEWS

To know even one life has breathed
easier because you have lived.

This is to have succeeded.

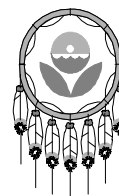
Ralph Waldo Emerson

LETTER

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Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



Work Shops and Conferences

April 12-16, 1999, 23rd National Indian Timber Symposium, Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, Warm Springs, OR. For more information call the Intertribal Timber Council at 503/282-4296

April 27-28, 1999, Introductory Preliminary Assessment Training, TBA Region 10. This course provides participants with an introduction to the Superfund site assessment process and the fundamentals of the preliminary assessment phase of this process. For information call Diane Ruthruff at 206/553-5139. No fee to tribes.

May 3-14, 1999, 80 Hour Chemistry of Hazardous Materials, EPA Regional Office, Seattle, WA. This course is composed of two instruction sequences on inorganic and organic chemicals. For information call Diane Ruthruff 206/553-5139. No fee to tribes.

May 17-20, Civilian Federal Agency environmental Symposium, Doubletree Guest suites, Seattle, WA. Bringing together members of the Civilian Federal Agency Community to Address Their Unique Compliance Needs. To view the draft agenda web site at: <http://www.epa.gov/oeca/fedfac/fflex.html> and click on **Federal Facilities**.

May 18-20, The National Tribal Environmental Council's Sixth National Conference, Eureka, CA. For additional information please call NTEC at 505/242-2175.

Underground Storage Tanks

An informative brochure on Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) used to store heating oil on Tribal Lands was published on March 1, 1999. The document describes the exemption of such USTs from federal regulations, but also encourages reporting leaks and spills from heating oil tanks as this can harm the environment. Contacts names and phone numbers are listed. If you would like copies of the brochure, contact Harold Scott, Region 10 UST Program at 206/553-1587, or Debra Packard, Community Involvement Coordinator at 206/553-0247.

Risk Management

A Risk Management planning document is available to assist public and private wastewater treatment plants that use chlorine, sulfur dioxide, ammonia, methane, and propane. The document provides chemical specific offsite consequence analysis as well as industry-specific information on prevention programs. The document was developed by EPA with input from the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies and is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/swerccepp/acc-pre.html# POTW Guidance>

Product Catalog

The National Small Flows Clearinghouse (NSFC), a nonprofit, federally funded environmental health program for small communities, announces the release of its new product catalog, the 1998-1999 *Products Guide*.

The catalog lists more than 300 educational products about small community wastewater treatment. Included are design manuals, posters, videotapes, computer searches, case studies, computer software, fact sheets, newsletters, and other materials.

Along with each product's price, item number, and title, the customer is also provided with a summary of the product.

An index in the back of the guide enables customers to use 100 keywords to search for products by topic, and an order form that can be mailed or faxed to the NSFC also is included.

To order the NSFC 1998-1999 *Products Guide*, call the NSFC at 800/624-8301 pr 304/293-4191 and request Item #WWCAT. The catalog is also available on the NSFC'S Web site: <http://www.nsfv.wvu.edu>.

"Earth Day"

April 22 is officially observed as Earth Day. In 1970 thousands of people showed their respect to the earth by joining together to protect our planet.

We are borrowing this earth from those to come. Consider what you might do for them.

EPA has created informational brochures that can help citizens to participate in helping protect the environment. The following brochures are free by calling: 206/553-1200 or 800/424-4372.

- ☛ Environmental Education Advance Quality Education
- ☛ Test your "Environmental IQ"
- ☛ Environmental Education Publications
- ☛ Environmental Education World Wide Web Sites

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter is published monthly at no charge

To receive a copy call:

AK..Jean.....907/271-6558
ID..Arlene.....208/378-5749
OR..Don.....503/326-5015
WA..Diana.....206/553-4011
Tribal Office.....800/424-4372
ext. 4011

- ☛Key Findings of America's Environmental Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors
- ☛Environmental Education Improves Our Everyday Lives
- ☛Getting Involved in Environmental Education: Things Educators Can do

Database Online

The National drinking Water Clearinghouse (NDWC) recently launched an online version of its drinking water treatment technologies database.

Known as the registry of Equipment Suppliers of Treatment Technologies for Small Systems, or RESULTS 3.0, the database is a handy tool for small communities to use when considering different technologies for replacement or upgrade of current treatment systems .

"The database was designed to tackle one of the biggest problems facing small drinking water systems-lack of information regarding treatment alternatives," said Sanjay Saxena, director of the NDWC. "This free reference tool helps decision makers learn about treatment methods used by other communities so they can make informed decisions about their own technologies." Community officials, state regulators, consulting engineers, and others can log on to the database to learn about treatment technologies used by other drinking water plants.,

"RESULTS offers valuable first-step information for state design review engineers, small system owners and operators, and others exploring appropriate technologies for their particular water problems," Saxena added. "Systems that have used specific treatment methods are often the best source of information for others and RESULTS provides those contacts." More than 1,000 sites are listed from across the U.S. and Canada, so users are sure to find a site that treats for the same contaminant. Entries include general information about each small system's technology and its supplier or manufacturer, as well as system contacts.

To search the RESULTS database, log on to the NDWC web site located at: <http://www.ndwc.wvu.edu>.

National Drinking Water Week

May 2-8, 1999 is National Drinking Water Week. For information about Drinking Water Week and the Blue Thumb Project call 303/794-7711 ext. 6284 or: www.awwa.org/bluethum.htm

NCAI

The National Congress of American Indians announces its mid-year session on July 20-23, 1999 at the Vancouver Convention Center, Vancouver, Canada and the 56th Annual Session on October 3-8, 1999 at the Wyndham Hotel, Palm Springs, CA.

Pesticides

To decrease the risk of pesticides leaching into groundwater, researchers from Kansas State University (KSU) in Manhattan, Kan., developed computer models that estimate the percentage of applied nitrogen and pesticide that leach through 20 inches of turfgrass-covered soil.

Developed with funding from the U.S. Golf Association, the KTURF models allow users to experiment with different pesticide and irrigation schemes and optimize their practices to reduce the likelihood that pesticides will leach beyond the root zone. The model is accessible via the World Wide Web at: <http://www.eece.ksu.edu/~starret/KTURF>

Environmental Tribal Assistance

The Department of Health and Human Services has published an announcement in the Federal Register Vol.64, No 14 January 22, 1999 outlining the availability of competitive financial assistance to assist eligible tribes address environmental problems and impacts resulting from Department of Defense activities to Indian Lands. The closing dates for submission of applications are November 5, 1999 and November 4, 2000. Application kits may be obtained by mail: Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration for Native Americans, 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW (Mail Stop: HHH 348-F), Washington, DC 20447-0002, Attention: Aaron Sadler; or call Janean Chambers at 202/690-6547.

Digital Septic Tanks

The bacteria in septic tanks are a lot like work horses. They work long and hard for years, but stubbornly stop if you push them too far.

An automatic digital control system that keeps the bacteria that break down solid wastes munching has been developed by Orenco Systems of Sutherlin, Oregon (800/ 348-9843).

The pump control unit works by metering effluent flow from a holding tank to a digesting tank. This maintains a healthy population of bacteria. Override controls can temporarily adjust the flow to accommodate increased/decreased flow. On the market in Europe for several years, the controller is now being sold in the U.S.

Compliance Assistance

EPA opened four online compliance assistance centers last October, bringing the total to nine. The new centers focus on the following industries: paints and coating, transportation, small/medium sized chemical manufactures, and local government agencies.

The centers are operated in partnership with academic institutions, environmental groups, industry, and federal and state agencies. The centers provide regularly updated compliance policies and guidelines, pollution prevention information, sources of additional information, summaries of regulations and initiatives, vendor listings, environmental management software, and bench marking tools that can be downloaded from the internet.

Compliance Assistance Web Sites:

- ☛Chemical Industry <http://www.chemalliance.org>
- ☛Local governments <http://www.lgean.org>
- ☛Agriculture <http://www.epa.gov/oeca/ag>
- ☛Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (health and safety) <http://www.ateec.org/hmtri.html>
- ☛Printing <http://www.pneac.org>
- ☛Automotive service and repair <http://www.ccar-greenlink.org>
- ☛Metal finishing <http://www.nmfrc.org>
- ☛EPA's Small-business Gateway <http://www.epa.gov/smallbusiness/>
- ☛Small Business Environmental Homepage

<http://www.smalbuz-enviroweb.org>
 ☛ *Transportation* <http://www.tran-source.org> ☛ *Paints and coatings* <http://paintcenter.org> ☛ *Clean Air Clearing house (provides clean air news)*.
<http://www.narc.org/cleanair/index.htm> ☛ *National environmental Service and Training Programs* <http://www.estd.wvu.edu/>

Y2K Enforcement

To encourage testing of equipment to ensure that environmental compliance is not impaired by the year 2000 computer bug, EPA will waive civil penalties and recommend against criminal prosecution for environmental violations caused by the testing.

Facilities must report the violations no later than Feb. 1, 2000. In order to qualify for the amnesty, facilities must take reasonable care in conducting the testing, and must correct any testing-related violations immediately.

The new policy also provides some insight into how the EPA will react to violations that occur as a result of Y2K problems. Facilities that can demonstrate a "good faith" effort was made to correct Y2K problems will be viewed in a better light.

EPA's Y2K enforcement policy may be downloaded from the net: <http://www.epa.gov/year2000/finalpol.htm>

Water Education

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has recently opened an education-based web site called "Water Science for Schools." The site is located at: <http://water.usgs.gov/droplet>.

Topic areas include Water Basics (test your water knowledge and learn about water properties and how they are measured); Earth's Water (find out about the many forms of water on and in the Earth); Special Topics (information on acid rain, saline water, water quality, and how urbanization affects the water system); Water Q&A (a browsable forum of common water questions and answers); Water Use (information, charts, maps, and data about how much and for what purposes water is used in the United States); a Picture Gallery (dozens of water-related pictures, each

with explanatory text); and a Activity Center.

The Activity Center is the interactive section of the site. Users can test their water knowledge, answer questionnaires, and respond to opinion surveys. Answers go into a cumulative data base and the users can see how people in other states and countries answered the same questions and surveys.

The site also contains a water glossary, a subject search, and links to schools conducting water studies and other sources of water information. For more information: Howard Perlman at USGS 770/903-9114 or hperلمان@usgs.gov.

Tribal Risk Roundtable

The Risk Roundtable was held early last year, in Pendleton, Oregon to bring together tribal representatives from across the region and nation, along with federal and state agency representatives, in an educational forum hosted and co-sponsored by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and co-sponsored by CRES (Consortium for Risk Evaluation with Stakeholder Participation). The purpose was to discuss how tribes can use tribally-appropriate risk tools and methods in recognition of the fact that many important regulatory decisions are now being made on the basis of risk evaluation. Twenty-three tribes and tribal organizations were represented, along with 14 federal and state agency representatives.

The *Summary* is designed to provide those who did not attend with the most important discussion points, lessons learned, and "take-home messages" provided at the Roundtable. The Roundtable Home Page has also been updated. The *Roundtable Summary* can be downloaded from the risk Roundtable Home Page at: <http://cresp.sphcm.washington.edu/roundtable/>, along with a report on strategy sessions for tribal representatives conducted at the Roundtable by the Council of Energy Resource Tribes. The update Home Page also includes contact information and links for all sponsoring and supporting organizations and links to other sites of relevance to the Roundtable mission and purpose. Documents are also available

by calling 206/616-3719 or e-mailing: mkern@u.washington.edu

Alaska

☐ ***Water Resources Technician Training Program.*** The program is designed to introduce talented Alaska Natives to the professional field of water resource development and management. As the demand on water resources increases, it is critical that Alaska Natives develop and manages their own water resources in order to promote maximum economic growth and self-sufficiency.

The program is comprehensive and introduces highly technical and complex courses in a simple, non-technical manner by a team of highly qualified technical experts. After completing the program, the participants will have the ability to relate the basic concepts of Water Resources Program to the development and management of their water resources. For additional information: Mo Baloch at: 202/208-6042 or Steve Roy at 206/553-6221.

☐ ***Indian Grant Assistance Program (IGAP), RAVEN AmeriCorps, and Alaska Native Health Board*** are planning a jointly sponsored conference and training sessions to be held October 15 - 17, 1999 at the Westcoast International Inn at Anchorage, Alaska. As the agenda and topics are developed for the conference all interested parties will be informed. Please call Amelia Mainord at the Alaska Native Health Board 907/562-6006; Cathy Clements at RAVEN AmeriCorps 907/79-2511; or your IGAP tribal coordinator at EPA for information.

Funding for Fish and Wildlife

Habitat Projects the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are now soliciting letters of interest for a matching fund program for fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects. To be eligible, proposed projects must create, protect, and/or restore habitat on private, municipal or state-managed land. For more information, contact Dan LaPlant (NRCS) at 907/271-2424 ext. 111; Tom Blackbird at 907/271-6063; or Sue Walker (USFWS) at 907/586-7330.

☐ **The Bering Sea Coalition: Wisdom Keepers of the Earth Conference** in March was an historic event of many cultures and interests, which focused on a proactive approach to stewardship in the Bering Sea. The gathering brought several tribes, organizations, and individuals, together to engender change from within in addressing the evident environmental impacts to birds, fish, and marine mammals throughout the Bering Sea.

Idaho

☐ **FT Hall Reservation:** On February 12, 1999, EPA published a proposal in the Federal Register to establish a FIP which will regulate particulate air pollution from the FMC elemental phosphorus facility. The FMC facility is located on the Ft. Hall Reservation. The comment period on the proposal runs from Feb 12, 1999 through May 13, 1999. As part of the comment period, EPA conducted an Open House on March 4, 1999 and a Public Hearing on March 18, 1999, both on the Ft. Hall Reservation.

☐ **Pesticide Circuit Rider:** Eric Gjevre joined the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in February and will serve as Circuit Rider to the Colville, Spokane, Kalispel, Kootenai, Nez Perce and Coeur d'Alene reservations.

The "Circuit Rider" works with the Tribal Staff within the structure of each tribe. The goal is to ensure pesticides are applied within the constraints of Tribal Code and FIFRA on each reservation. The program will also emphasize outreach and education. Eric has a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy and has worked for the Sustainable Agriculture Program at the Minnesota Dept. of Ag, as well as having seed industry experience in the Midwest.

Oregon

☐ **Coquille:** The TAS (Treatment in the same Manner as a State) application from the Coquille Indian Tribe has been approved. This was for Section 106 of the Clean Water Act, and qualifies the Tribe to apply for grant funds under

Section 106. Congratulations!

☐ March was the month that the Oregon Operations Office of EPA, received training called, Working Effectively With Tribal Governments. Presenters were Scott Sufficool, Robin Slate, and Rich McAllister. Topics covered included Treaties, Tribal Sovereignty, Federal Trust Responsibility, Government to Government Relationship and Federal Indian Law and Policies.

☐ March 1-4 at The Spirit Mountain Lodge, on the Grand Ronde Reservation, was the site of EPA's Tribal Office's retreat. The first day was spent discussing GAP (General Assistance Program) grant funding. The rest of the time was spent covering topics including job descriptions, roles/responsibilities, special projects and workload prioritization. A special treat, was a presentation by Kathryn Harrison, Tribal Chairwoman, about the history of the Tribe. After Ms Harrison's presentation she and Tribal Council joined the Tribal Office for breakfast.

Washington

☐ "Building Capacity in Environmental Community-Based and Watershed Projects Conference" was sponsored by EPA's Integrated Environmental Management Division (IEMD), Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation from Washington, D.C., Debora Martin, Director. IEMD requested the **Yakama Nation** to serve as host for the conference. The conference was comprised of two parts: the first part being: a Tribal Roundtable and Columbia River tour held on Feb 6-7; and the second part being an Annual Conference for Environmental Management Practitioner's held on Feb 7-10. IEMD informed attendees that their program was being phased out and that they were being transitioned to other programs in EPA, primarily to EPA's American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO), and that this conference was viewed as "the passing of the baton."

In a facilitated Tribal Roundtable,

representatives from approximately 15 tribal communities from across Indian Country expressed views, observations, issues and concerns with regard to the development of multimedia environmental protection programs in Indian Country while EPA, and BIA, official/s listened. Funding assistance, technical assistance, tribal capacity building as well as EPA/BIA capacity building to work with 22 tribes, consultation with tribes, limitations of federal environmental laws, etc. were some of the talking points. The tour guided by Yakama representatives concentrated attention toward the superimposition of modern developments onto the ancestral homelands over the last century and a half and expressed many concerns over environmental degradation and pollution as a result. Ancient traditional perspectives were shared in an effort to relate Indigenous People values for the environment. Two ceremonial meals were held with an intent to enhance cultural orientation to Indigenous Peoples' customs and practices, which are obviously connected to all aspects of the natural world and natural resources thereof.

The "Annual Conference for Environmental Management Practitioners" held Feb 7-10 was comprised of a variety of presentations from a host of presenters representing federal, state, community-based, and tribal entities. The presentations presented information including Comparative Risk, GIS, Community Outreach and Watershed Planning, Integrating Culture into Natural Resources Management, etc. Many positive comments were made on behalf of the tribal roundtable and environmental practitioners conference and hopefully it will serve as another positive stepping stone in building collaborative capacity among all parties to assure a sustainable earth.

For more information contact Moses Squeochs, Yakama Indian Nation Environmental Protection Program, 509/865-5121.